

# IURC News Release

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**For Immediate Release**  
November 7, 2007

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## **Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Extends Energy Assistance Programs Through May 2009**

Today in Cause Nos. 43077 and 43078, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC, the Commission) modified a settlement agreement between the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Inc., The Board of Commissioners of LaPorte County, the Indiana Industrial Group, Citizens Gas, Vectren and Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO).

There were several positive aspects to the programs that lead to their earlier extensions, but the level of proof of a business case required by the Commission from the onset of the pilot programs has not been met. As the heating season is upon us, the Commission believes continuation of the program for this heating season can be useful and, possibly, into one additional cycle. At this stage of the record, there is insufficient evidence that continuation beyond that point can be beneficial and, accordingly, the pilot program will terminate no later than May 31, 2009.

Under the terms of the agreement Citizens and Vectren will expand the availability of their programs to include households with a gross income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. NIPSCO will devote \$1-million of its Winter Warmth funds to the "hardship" portion of its program, earmarked for customers who fall between 150% and 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

In the event that the companies want to continue the programs or make further modifications after the termination of the programs in 2-years, they may file a new docketed case.

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